

For further information about Missinaibi Provincial Park or the remainder of the canoe route "Missinaibi Provincial Park Canoe Route: Mattice to Moosonee" contact:

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Ministry of Natural Resources
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Chapleau ON
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Telephone: (705) 864-1710
Fax: (705) 864-0681

Comments are welcome. Please send them to Ontario Parks at the address noted above.

A Word about Canoe Route Maintenance

Canoe route maintenance cannot be guaranteed. For this reason we would greatly appreciate your co-operation in keeping this route litter free. Please carry out all non-burnable garbage and practice no-trace camping. Please inform us of any condition that requires attention such as poor or missing signs, blowdowns or garbage accumulations.

CAUTION

The information contained in this guide was accurate at time of publication. Conditions on the river are subject to change and may differ from those described in the guide. (Measurements are in metric: 1000 m (metres) = 1 km (kilometre) = 0.64 mile.

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Missinaibi Lake to Mattice

Missinaibi Provincial Park Canoe Route Missinaibi Lake to Mattice 7-9 days / 210 km / 27 portages

General Information

The Missinaibi River is the longest protected, unimpeded wilderness waterway in northeastern Ontario. It offers canoeists challenging white water, incredible scenery, and abundant wildlife, all in a remote setting. Flowing unchecked from the height of land near Chapleau, this magnificent river flows northward from Missinaibi Lake 532 kilometres to the Moose River and finally to James Bay. The drop in elevation is 390 metres. With the Michipicoten River to the south, and the Moose to the north, the Missinaibi provides the shortest water link between the Great Lakes and James Bay. Historically, it was an important trade and communications route and today, a valuable recreational waterway. Please respect all historic or native cultural sites.

The Missinaibi is a remote and challenging river. It is recommended for experienced canoeists.

Portages and Rapids

The degree of difficulty of the more than 75 rapids along the length of Missinaibi varies with water levels. Rapids having "no portage" should be carefully inspected before being run or lined. From mid-July through August, low water conditions may be encountered which may make it necessary to wade through certain sections.

Emergency Services

The Missinaibi River is remote and generally inaccessible to all but canoes and aircraft. Once on the river, opportunities for communication are limited. Trip planning must include notifying someone about expected travel times and

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what steps to take if you are late. This responsible person should know the date and place of your departure, your trip route and the date and location of your exit. Telephone services are available at the park office (Missinaibi Lake) and Mattice. Canoeists should verify that all maps, guides, and other river information are current.

The Ontario Provincial Police are responsible for search and rescue. Those seeking information about overdue canoeists should contact the OPP detachment nearest their destination or call 1-800-661-6777.

Other Services

For the latest information about services - train schedules, outfitters, tours, shuttle services and more, contact the Ontario Parks office in Chapleau.

Access

The trip may begin at the park campground on Missinaibi Lake, which is 94 kilometres north of Chapleau by way of a forest access road. Another option, or to avoid lake travel, is taking the VIA Rail train to Peterbell.

An alternative starting point is from the village of Missanabie, located on Highway 651, about 50 kilometres north of Highway 101. The village can also be reached by VIA Rail. This section provides access to Missinaibi Lake from the west through Crooked and Dog Lakes.

Route Description - Missinaibi Lake to Mattice

From Missinaibi Lake to Peterbell, the route is within the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, the largest such reserve in the world. Opportunities for wildlife viewing are excellent.

You may wish to spend one day just on Missinaibi Lake exploring its natural and cultural history. Missinaibi Lake is long, narrow, and oriented with the prevailing winds. It can change from calm to whitecaps in a very short time. Always keep close to shore, and be especially careful if you choose to visit the pictographs at Fairy Point before starting down the river.

Fairy Point can be dangerous. The rock cliff, deep water and wave action combine to create a cross-chop of waves that has capsized canoes and small boats. Even a moderate wind can set off this reaction.

Please leave the pictographs and other historic sites exactly as you find them. Any tampering may damage or destroy these valuable records of our past.

Once on the Missinaibi River, there are several sets of rapids before reaching Peterbell where the CNR railway crosses the river. After Peterbell, the river meanders for approximately 10 km through Peterbell Marsh and provides some of the best wildlife viewing on the route.

A series of small rapids follows for about eight kilometres before reaching Allan Falls. Along this stretch, the Missinaibi turns in many directions, churning over dangerous falls and rock-strewn rapids before setting the northeasterly course to Mattice.

Past Fire River, you can portage into Brunswick Lake or continue on the Missinaibi River. If the Brunswick Lake route is chosen, you must portage 1,500 m to the lake and then around several short portages on the Brunswick River before returning to the Missinaibi River.

North of the Brunswick River, waterfalls and rapids require several portages. Smooth water follows for about nine kilometres before reaching the long, shallow Albany Rapids. There will be several more portages around rapids before reaching Mattice.

This section of the route ends at Mattice on Highway 11 (about 30 kilometres east of Hearst). The route continues downstream to Moosonee. See the brochure *Missinaibi Provincial Park Canoe Route - Mattice to Moosonee* for more information.

Trip Distances

Park Campground to Missinaibi River (Quittage Rapids) 12 km
Quittage Rapids to Peterbell 30 km
Peterbell to Mattice 168 km

Maps Required

The following Provincial Series maps may be obtained from local distributors or from:

Natural Resources Information Centre
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C1
1-800-363-3730 (General Inquiries)
(416) 314-2000 (Map Information)

Missinaibi Lake 42B/SW 1:100,000
Fire River 42B/NW 1:100,000
Opasatika Lake 42G/SW 1:100,000
Hearst 42G/NW 1:100,000

Aerial photographs may also be purchased from the Information Centre.

The following topographic maps (1:50,000) are available by contacting Canada Maps Office, 1-800-465-6277 or a local map distributor:

Makonie Lake 42B/6 1:50,000
Peterbell 42B/11 1:50,000
Ericson Creek 42B/14 1:50,000
Opasatika Lake 42G/3 1:50,000
Rock River 42G/6 1:50,000
Mattice 42G/11 1:50,000

Planning

Travel on the Missinaibi River is through a remote and unpopulated area. Pack enough gear and provisions to get you through the entire trip. Make a checklist to be sure nothing essential is left behind, but at the same time keep weight to a minimum, since all equipment must be portaged. General provisions and meals can be purchased in Chapleau and Mattice. Avoid metal cans and glass containers.

Park Permits

Check with Ontario Parks to obtain current information on permit requirements or fire conditions.

Water Levels

Since the Missinaibi flows unimpeded, water levels are subject to seasonal fluctuations. Typically, water levels decrease throughout the summer but may increase quickly by a heavy rain storm.

Weather

You can expect long daylight hours, heat and low humidity during the summer but this area can experience extreme and rapid changes in weather conditions. Temperature and precipitation extremes are most likely during spring and fall.

Garbage and Waste material

Do not bury any garbage. Burn all refuse and carry out non-burnable items (for example, plastic or aluminum foil packaging). Cans, if used, should be burned to remove all food traces, flattened and then carried out. Avoid glass containers and practice no-trace camping.

Use pit privies where established, otherwise bury all human waste materials well back from the tent area and shoreline. Greywater should be dumped and buried well back from the shore.

Insects

Biting insects are present throughout the summer. Blackflies are most abundant in June, and bite during daylight. Mosquitoes persist throughout the summer and are most numerous at dusk, but bite anytime of day. Insect repellent and protective clothing are recommended.

Firewood and Campfires

Wood fires are allowed, however, gas or naphtha stoves are preferable and more convenient. Build your fire on bare rock or mineral soil with a five metre diameter area completely cleared of flammable materials. Never leave your fire unattended, and make sure it is dead out before continuing your trip. Use established firepits if present.

Check with Ontario Parks about fire conditions before starting your trip. Under Ontario law, the costs of extinguishing forest fires can be directly chargeable to those responsible for causing them.

Drinking Water

Drinking water should be filtered, boiled or chemically treated. While the water is not polluted, there may be natural organisms (giardia) present that could cause illness. Special filters or water treatment pills are available at most outdoor stores.

Campsites

Use established campsites wherever possible. Sites are marked on the map. Campground facilities are available at Missinaibi Lake (park campground) and Mattice (at the municipal campground).

Fishing

Walleye, northern pike, sturgeon, and whitefish are commonly found in the Missinaibi River. Brook trout can be caught in some of the river tributaries. Obtain a current copy of Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary regarding open seasons, catch limits and licences required.

Firearms

No firearms may be carried without a valid Ontario hunting licence. No licence is valid in Ontario during July and August.

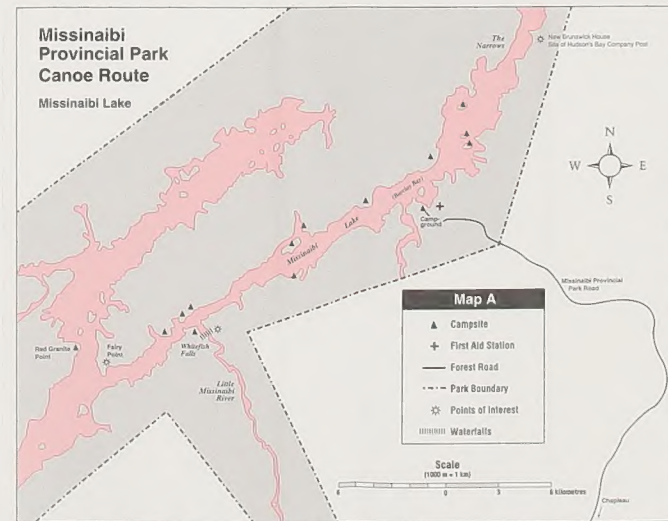
Black Bears

A variety of animals inhabit this area including moose, wolf, beaver, and lynx. The black bear can be the greatest hazard. Keep your campsite odourless and garbage-free to avoid attracting animals. Hoist food into a tree well away from tents and at least three metres off the

ground. Black bears are unpredictable and can inflict serious injury. If confronted by a bear, do not attempt to attract or frighten it. Remain in an upright position. Do not panic. Back off and give it the right-of-way. If you see bear cubs, do not approach them: their mother will be close by. If fresh tracks, digging, or bear scars are found, be cautious.

Safety

Where there are no obvious portages, rapids should be scouted before running or lining canoes. Canoes should have life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFD), a spare paddle, a bailing can, and a signalling device. In rough, windy, or cold weather, canoeists should stay on or near the shore. Medical aid usually will be far away - ensure you have a first aid kit adequate for your party.



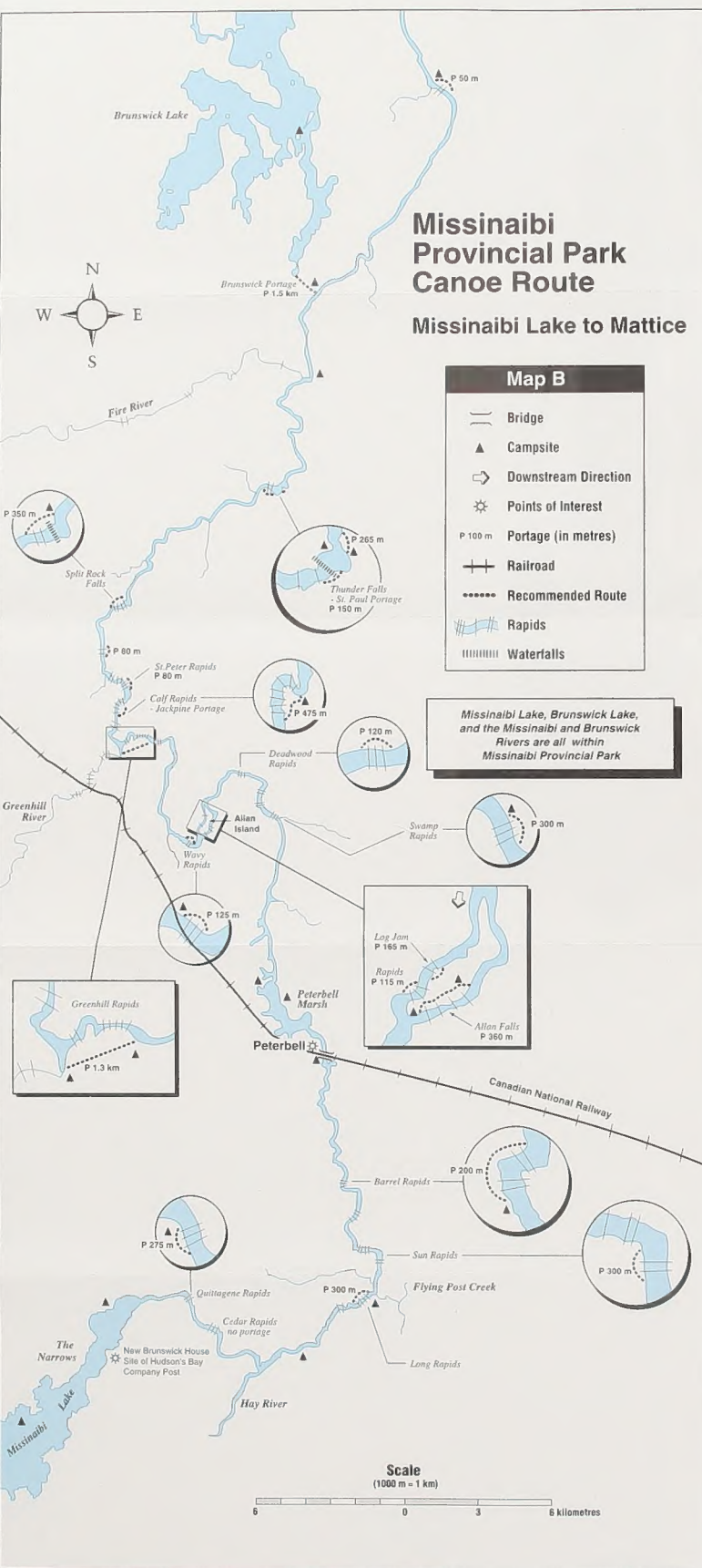
Missinaibi Provincial Park Canoe Route

Missinaibi Lake to Mattice

Map B

- Bridge
- ▲ Campsite
- Downstream Direction
- ☼ Points of Interest
- P 100 m Portage (in metres)
- +— Railroad
- Recommended Route
- ⚡ Rapids
- ||||| Waterfalls

Missinaibi Lake, Brunswick Lake, and the Missinaibi and Brunswick Rivers are all within Missinaibi Provincial Park



Map C

- Bridge
- ▲ Campsite
- City or Town
- Highway
- P 100 m Portage (in metres)
- Recommended Route
- ⚡ Rapids
- ||||| Waterfalls

